

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/759,530

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the original drawing sheet 1/4 with the enclosed replacement formal drawing sheet 1/4 in which Fig. 1 has been amended to contain the label "PRIOR ART" to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawing set forth in the Office Action at page 2, paragraph 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/4

REMARKS

Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawing in view of the enclosed replacement formal drawing sheet in which Fig. 1 has been labeled as "PRIOR ART".

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been rendered **moot** because of the above claim amendments. More specifically, the Examiner stated that dependent **claims 2-4 would be allowable** if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has canceled claim 2, and incorporated its limitations into the independent parent claim 1 and has amended claim 3 so that it is now dependent on the amended independent claim 1 (1 + 2). Thus, all of claims 3-6 are now either directly or indirectly dependent on the amended **allowable** claim 1 (claim 1 + claim 2).

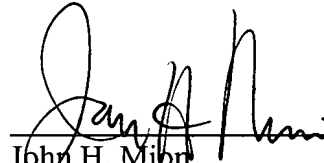
Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection and the rejection, and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1 and 3-6, along with the **already allowed claims 7-9**; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees

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under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and
Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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